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Editorial comment or news items should be E-mailed to 3241437@mcimail.com or B.PASTERNAK@genie.geis.com. Voice or FAX to +1 805-296-7180.

All other information and disclaimers are in the text header below.

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NEWSLINE RADIO - CBBS EDITION #103 - POSTED 12/19/93

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The following is late news about Amateur Radio for Radio Amateurs as prepared from NEWSLINE RADIO scripts by the staff of the AMATEUR RADIO NEWSLINE, INC. -- formerly the WESTLINK RADIO NETWORK. The electronic version of newsline is posted on this CBBS twice monthly. For current information updates, please call

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For further information about the AMATEUR RADIO NEWSLINE, please write to us with an SASE at P.O. Box 463, Pasadena, CA 91102.

Thank You
NEWSLINE

Some of the hams of NEWSLINE RADIO...

WA6ITF WB6MQV WB6FDF K6DUE W6RCL N6AHU N6AWE N6TCQ K6PGX N6PNY
KU8R N8DTN W9JUV KC9RP K9XI KB5KCH KC5UD KC0HF G8AUU WD0AKO DJ0QN
and many others in the United States and around the globe!!!

[853]

* * * * C L O S E D C I R C U I T A D V I S O R Y * * * *
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* The following is a closed circuit advisory and is NOT *
* for air over amateur radio. Repeat, not for broadcast. *
* This is just a reminder that the address for the Newsline *
* Support Fund is Newsline, in care of Dr. Norm Chalfin, *
* K6PGX, Post Office Box 463, Pasadena, California 91102. *
* Again, and as always, we thank you. That ends the closed *
* circuit with Newsline report number 853 for release on *
* Friday, December 18, 1993 to follow. *
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* The following is a QST *
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* A Christmas present from the FCC. The commission says *
* that you will soon be able to choose your own call sign. *
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FCC APPROVES VANITY CALL SIGN PLAN

The FCC says that amateurs should be able to choose their own call signs in the not too distant future. This, as soon as a new automated processing system is in place at the Commission's Private Radio Bureau license processing facility in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania.

Under the proposed system, hams wishing to apply for an available call sign will be required to file a form and pay an additional fee. Trustees of club and military recreation stations will be eligible for the new program.

But there is one caveat. Newcomers to the service will not be eligible for vanity call signs until they are ready to upgrade or make some other license change. The FCC says that at the present time call sign selection by first-time licensees is not feasible, but it left the door open for that possibility in the future. In fact, the FCC indicates that the new license processing computer might eventually allow amateurs to check for themselves on the availability of call signs, be used to allow electronic filing of applications and make license processing a lot easier for both the applicant and FCC.

The text of the Notice of Proposed Rule Making is not yet available but is expected to be issued shortly. Also acted on by the commission was the cancellation of a rule making procedure adopted last summer establishing a call sign administrator program for amateur club and military stations. This scheme was never implemented due to in-fighting between the ARRL which wanted exclusivity in managing the program and several other entities that saw the chance to gain political or financial advantage by undertaking the task.

FCC PRAISES VEC's IN VE BUST

The FCC has words of praise for a pair of Volunteer Examination Coordinators who helped to investigate alleged testing irregularities in Los Angeles, California. As reported last week, the inquiry led to the suspension of the accreditation of a number of Volunteer Examiners and the disqualification of twenty one applicants for new licenses or upgrades. That investigation is still ongoing, and more VE disqualifications are expected to be announced shortly.

In the meantime, the FCC has taken the time to express its gratitude to the Volunteer Examination Coordinators who made the bust possible. John B. Johnston, W3BE, who is Chief of the FCC's Personal Radio Branch has commended both the ARRL VEC and the

W5YI VEC's for their joint cooperation in uncovering the irregularities in the Los Angeles testing sessions. He also praised them for their quick action in suspending the Volunteer Examiners believed to be involved. Johnston says that their action will hopefully prevent future occurrences like this, while making certain that amateur licenses are granted only to those who are qualified to hold them.

FCC WARNING TO UNCOORDINATED REPEATER

For well over two years a Los Angeles amateur radio club calling itself the Hispanic Radio Amateur Network has been looking for a set of two meter channels for its wide coverage repeater. The system has been given several test coordinations by the Two Meter Area Spectrum Management Association. In each case someone complained and the test was canceled. So when the club finally found a home on 147.49 Mhz, they thought their long quest was at an end. Enter a group of simplex users 10 Khz away on 147.48. A group calling itself the Valley Simplex Association.

The Valley Simplex Association is actually the old Southern California 146.76 simplex group under a new name. Hams that have been involved in FM since the 60's know who the seven sixers are. It's the organization generally credited with bringing FM to the VHF ham and building a political empire in the process. An empire so large that at one time it totally controlled who could even operate the FM mode in nine western states. It even enforced those decisions with its own police force known as the seven six secret service -- or S.S.S.S.

In the old days -- the 1950's through the early 1970's, the seven sixers would simply have used brute force to remove any unwanted repeater from being their next door neighbor. But it's now the 1990's. Times have changed and so have the ways of the seven sixers.

So it was that members of the Valley Simplex Association who filed complaints about the repeater with the Cerritos FCC office about the interference that they were suffering. Last September 10th the FCC acted on the complaints by sending a written warning to the repeater's owner Miguel Ramirez, NH2R.

In a letter only recently made public, Engineer James Zoulek wrote Ramirez that his office was continuing to receive complaints -- and we quote -- "regarding your non-coordinated operation on several amateur repeater frequencies."

The letter went on to say that it has come to Zoulek's attention that the NH2R repeater -- and again we quote -- "may be operating a non-coordinated repeater on 147.49 Mhz." Zoulek said that the operation of a non-coordinated repeater must not

cause interference to other radio amateurs as specified under Section 97.205, subpart C of the Amateur Radio service rules. He even went so far as to tell NH2R that failure to adhere to FCC regulations could result in the revocation of his amateur license.

As far as we know, this is the first time in well over a two decades that the FCC has seen fit to directly intervene in an alleged interference issue between a repeater and a group of simplex operators. Its may also be the first time that an allegedly uncoordinated repeater has been told by the FCC that it does not have the same right to exist as do systems that have successfully gone through the voluntary coordination process.

Right now, things are status quo. The NH2R repeater is still on the 147.49 Mhz frequency. The Valley Simplex Association is still operating on 147.48. As we go to air the FCC has not taken any further action in this case. Whether it acts or not, the warning letter to Ramirez may well be a precedent that the FCC will follow in other repeater related matters in times to come.

CUBAN 3rd PARTY

Cuban dictator Fidel Castro is persecuting that nations radio amateurs who contact stateside stations even for emergency aid. This is according to Ramon Batista, C08BA, Batista, formerly of Puerto Padre, is the Cuban expatriate ham who recently lead sixteen other Cuban citizens to freedom in the United States. On his arrival, C08BA, speaking through SIRA President Rafael Estevez, WA4ZZG said that Castro appears to cracking down on Cuban hams. C08BA wants the rest of the worlds hams to come their aid.

"One of the things he has in mind is asking help of American Amateur Radio societies in the United States and around the world. That's because there are more than 50 amateur radios suspended in Cuba. Just for the reason to ask for insulin, of medicines, simple communications. Of course they had been begging through different channels that somebody help them. And so far nobody has help them to try to talk to the Cuba Federation of Amateur Radio Operators. It is now lead by C02PR, Pedro Rodriguez. Rodriguez was a former military man who was in Angola and fought for the Cuban Government over there. What they are trying to do is to discipline the amateur radio societies in Cuba." stated Rafael Estevez, WA4ZZG, SIRA President.

This oppressed group of Cuban hams need your help to get back on the air. Batista says that a letter to your national society urging it to pressure the pro-Castro Cuban Amateur Radio

Federation could go a long way in bringing this kind communications freedom back to Cuba's amateur radio community.

24 GHz AWARD

The Radio Society of Great Britain has awarded its Standard Distance Award for 24 GHz to Bill James G6XM. James made contact from a portable site near Dartmoor with G3GNR on Exmoor over a 43 kilometers away. This is well in excess of the minimum of 23 kilometers needed to qualify for the award.

IT AMSAT CRASH

After 45 days of uninterrupted BBS service, Italy's AMSAT IO-26 suffered a major computer crash at about 11:30 UTC on December 8th. The cause of the crash is still unclear. The Command Team is investigating some new software used to access the BBS services. In the past some other Microsats crashes were due to bugs found in the user software.

The IT AMSAT managers would like to receive reports about IO-26, especially regarding the presence of just the HDLC flags on the downlink or some sort of telemetry, either MBL or PHT style. With your help they hope be able to investigate on this incident. Send reports to IT AMSAT via normal AMSAT channels.

DAYTON HAM OF THE YEAR

The Dayton Amateur Radio Association has set March 1, 1994 as the cutoff date for filing nominations for its highly coveted Radio Amateur of the Year, Special Achievement and Technical Excellence awards. Nominating letters must be detailed and include substantiating documentation. The Hamvention runs from April 29 - May 1, 1994 with the awards presented at the Grand Banquet scheduled for Saturday evening, April 30. To file a nomination or obtain more information please write to the Awards Committee, 1994 Dayton Hamvention, P.O. Box 964, Dayton, Ohio 45401.

DX - PITCAIRN ISLAND.

In DX, this note to hams planning to QSL the recent special event operation where Pitcairn Island stations were signing VR6SLY. Address mail to the call sign of the station contacted, via Private Bag, Pitcairn Island, South Pacific Ocean, Via New

Zealand.

Also, word that XE1CI, XE1ABA, and possibly other XE DXers will operate as XF4CI for the next two weeks. Nellis will be the first YL DXer to operate from XF4, and will operate SSB only. QSL all contacts via XE1CI.

ARRL's MANSFIELD PROMOTED

Our congratulations to ARRL Public Information Manager Steve Mansfield, N1MZA. Steve has been named to replace the retiring Perry Williams, W1UED as the Leagues Washington Area Coordinator. Williams is to retire in April of 1994. Until then, N1MZA will prepare to assume the Washington area duties in addition to continuing on with his current public relations responsibilities.

For this week, that's all from the Amateur Radio Newsline. You can write to us at Post Office Box 463, Pasadena, California 91102.

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